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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 RABAT 03481 121440Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------032399 121446Z /42
O 121321Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5738

S E C R E T RABAT 3481

STADIS//////////////////

EXDIS

FOR NEA/AFN ONLY

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV AG MO SS
SUBJECT: PRC MEETING ON NORTH AFRICA

REF STATE 147873

1. ON THE EVE OF PRC MEETING, WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A COUPLE OF THOUGHTS ON YOUR EXCELLENT BRIEFING PAPER (JUNE 1 DRAFT) WHICH YOU WERE GOOD ENOUGH TO SEND US IN THE POUCH.

2. CREATION OF CLIENT STATE - ONE OF YOUR WORST CASE SCENARIOS IS FOLLOWED BY A COMMENT THAT CREATION OF AN ALGERIAN CLIENT STATE ON THE ATLANTIC IS NOT A LIKELY OUTCOME OF THE REGIONAL DISPUUTE. WE WOULD ARGUE THAT IT IS A HIGHLY POSSIBLE OUTCOME IN LIGHT OF THE TREND OF EVENTS AND, IN OUR VIEW, ONE THAT WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE U.S. EITHER FROM THE OPTIC OF AREA STABILITY OR IN THE DANGER POSED BY POSSIBLE SOVIET ACCESS TO FACILITIES ON THE ATLANTIC.

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3. SOVIET ROLE IN SAHARA CONFLICT - ON PAGE FOUR, BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO RECALL THAT SOVIETS CONTINUE TO SUPPLY SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF SOPHISTICATED ARMS TO ONE PARTY IN THE CONFLICT, HARDLY A STABILIZING FACTOR.

4. SECRETARY - PROMISE - UNDER AGENDA ITEM I, BELIEVE

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THAT REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE TO SECRETARY VANCE'S
PROMISES TO FONMIN BOUCETTA INTER ALIA (1) LOOK
PERSONALLY AT THE SAHARA PROBLEM (ADMINISTRATIVE
CONTROL VERSUS SOVEREIGNTY) "AS A LAWYER" AND (2) GIVE
RAPID CONSIDERATION TO RENEWED MOROCCAN COBRA REQUEST.
ON FORMER POINT, WE RECEIVE PERIODIC ENQUIRIES FROM
MOROCCANS. ON LATTER POINT, THE JUNE 1 DRAFT
CHARACTERIZES THE COBRA REQUEST AS TARGETTED FOR
SAHARA USE. WE ASSUME
THAT RABAT 3233 (SENT ON SAME DAY AS YOUR
DRAFT) REPORTING THAT GOM NOW RPT NOW LOOKING TO
COBRA USE AGAINST POSSIBLE FUTURE ALGERIAN ATTACK AND
NOT RPT NOT FOR USE IN SAHARA IS REFLECTED IN LATEST
DRAFT.
ANDERSON

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